NOTE X.

A COMPLEMENTARY NOTE TO MY REVIEW OF THE GENUS RHIPIDURA

BY

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When, in my »Review of the genus *Rhipidura*", I was to decide what to make of the two specimens from Mount Arfak, described antea, p. 82, species 43, I believed them, on the authority of Dr. A. B. Meyer, to be specifically distinct from his *R. cinnamomea.*

Our Arfak birds, as well as the specimens mentioned by Dr. Meyer as *R. brachyrhyncha*, thus belonging neither to this latter species nor to the closely allied *R. cinnamomea* Meyer, nor being, in my mind, the females of *R. atra* Salvad., they were enregistered as a new species, which I named *R. meyeri* in honor of Dr. Meyer, who was the first to give a description of the bird and who only with some hesitation identified it with *R. brachyrhyncha* Schlegel.

Afterwards, when making up the key to the species, I was quite unable to thoroughly distinguish *R. meyeri* mihi from the eastern form *R. cinnamomea*, so well agree original description and measurements of this latter species with the two Arfak specimens in our Museum.

Dr. Meyer admits that his *R. cinnamomea* is closely allied with the Arfak bird, but »weit lebhafter zimmetfarben und kleiner." The expression »lebhafter zimmetfarben" is not strengthened by the figure of the bird on plate III, the color in this figure being darker, especially on the upper surface which differs so much from the lower, that it does not agree with the term *cinnamomea*, *subtus vix pallidior*. As to the difference in size, the following comparative table of measurements will show that they are alike in size of wings and tail (the total length I consider of not the least positive value) and that only Dr. Meyer's Arfak specimen has a somewhat longer tail.

	wing	tail	bill [1]	tarsus	
Dr. Meyer, Arfak	7,4;	9 ;	1,2;	2	cm.
Bruyn, »	7,1;	8 ;	1,2;	2	»
Woelders, »	7,2;	8,1;	1,2;	2	»
Dr. Meyer, East New Guinea	7,3;	8 ;	1,2;	1,9	»

On ground of the impossibility to draw a sharp line of demarkation between the western and the eastern form, I was sufficiently convinced of their identity and substituted my manuscript name *R. meyeri* by *R. cinnamomea*, but forgot to alter the first in the description of *R. brachyrhyncha*, where it occurs twice (pp. 81 and 82).

Shortly after the publication of my review, Dr. Meyer wrote me that his Arfak bird and that from the Owen Stanley Range, *R. cinnamomea*, were really two different species, and very much obliged me in sending, on my request, both birds for comparison. The results of this comparison are the following:

R. brachyrhyncha Meyer (nec Schl.) is identical with our two Arfak birds. The difference in length and color of the tail [2] in the three specimens now before me are individual, if not due to age or season. They are specifically distinct from the eastern form, *R. cinnamomea* Meyer, and has, therefore, my original name *R. meyeri* to be restored and put in place of *R. cinnamomea* on page 82 of my review.

The eastern form is distinguished from the western by its richer red color, which is much inclining to chestnut, especially on the upper surface, and by having the crown of the head red like the back, without any tinge of olive-brown. The tail being incomplete, I can only state the three outermost pairs to be uniform red, and that one black feather of the centre pair is present.

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[1] In the key to the species of my Review, the length of the bill in the two great subdivisions A (p. 67) and B (p. 70) are by mistake noted in cm. I hardly need to say that instead of cm. ought to stand mm.

[2] On p. 83, line 8 from the bottom, read inner instead of outer web.

The place of the new species in the key will be between *R. brachyrhyncha* Schl. and *R. cinnamomea* Meyer, and the key on p. 70, third line from top, will have to undergo the following alteration:

d''. Two centre pairs of tail-feathers black, next pair black on the inner, red on the outer web, three outermost pairs, as a rule, uniform red.
  a'''. General color pale cinnamon, crown tinged with olive-brown . . . . *R. meyeri.*
  b'''. General color rich cinnamon-red, crown red like the back. . . . . *R. cinnamomea.*

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